

"If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him" (Mt. 27:42). But Jesus didn't come down. Author Philip Yancey describes it as "a time of No Miracle."

Jesus certainly wasn't deserving of crucifixion. But God, in keeping with His loving purposes, used the evil that Jesus had to endure to accomplish the good that we so desperately needed--to be "reconciled to God through the death of His Son" (Rom. 5:10). That's why that awful day can be called "good."

Are you feeling that a miracle is your only hope of seeing God's goodness at work? Consider what Christ accomplished--not *in spite* of His sufferings but *because* of them. Also ponder Good Friday, Christ's day of "No Miracle." One day you'll be able to look back on the dark times in your life and honestly call them "good." --JEY

*While Jesus hung on Calvary's cross,  
The devil and his demons smiled;  
Disciples grieved and mourned the loss,  
But God and man were reconciled. --Sper*

**God uses life's reverses to move us forward.**



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## Central Mountains Baptist Church

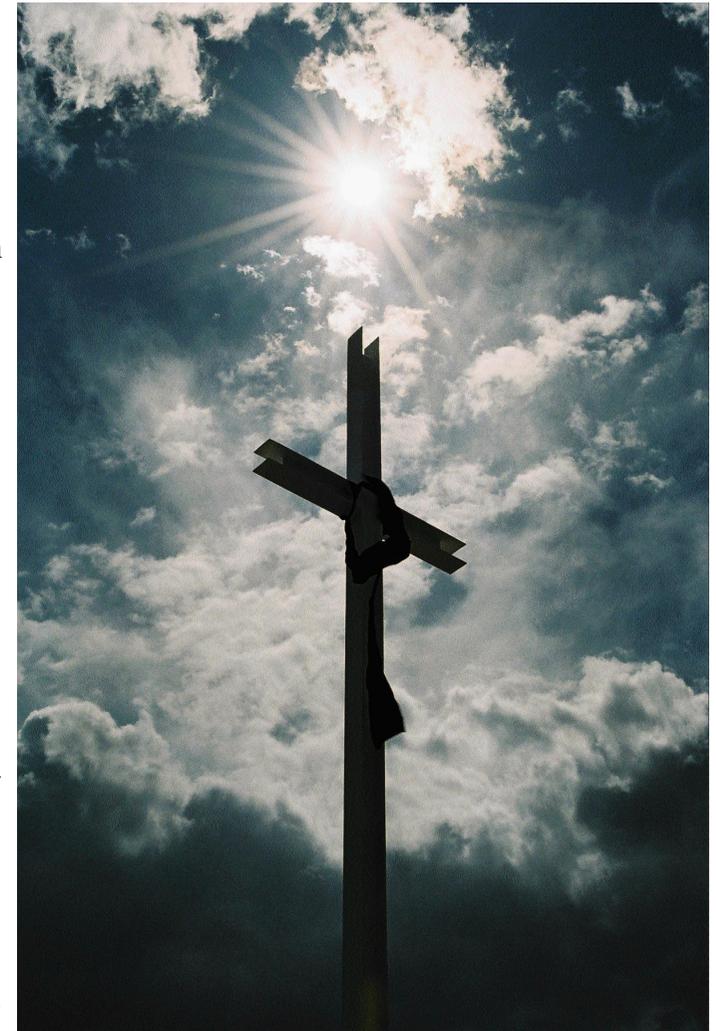
# 12 JUNE, 2011

### What's Good About It?

**We were  
reconciled to God  
through the death  
of His Son. --  
Romans 5:10**

When faced with an ugly, unrelenting problem, we often cry, "I need a miracle!" A miracle may come, but if it doesn't, does that mean God's goodness isn't at work?

Let me ask another question: Why is Good Friday, the day Jesus hung on a cross, called "good"? If ever a miracle seemed appropriate, it was then. Even the mockers demanded,



# The Complete Picture

**(John 3:16-18)** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. {17} For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. {18} He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*



To bring God into the picture we need to know Him well in two ways. God is:

## 1. G \_\_\_\_\_,

**(John 11:33-36)** *"Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. {34} And He said, 'Where have you laid him?'" They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' {35} Jesus wept. {36} Then the Jews said, 'See how He loved him!'"*

**(Luke 22:41-44)** *"And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, {42} saying, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.' {43} Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. {44} And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."*

**(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)** *"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. {14} For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus... {16} For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. {18} Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

**(Psalms 34:8)** *"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!"*

**(Psalms 100:5)** *"For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations."*

**(Psalms 135:3)** *"Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant."*



In what ways?

◆ **(Romans 8:35-39)**

◆ **(2 Corinthians 12:9)** *"... 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

◆ **(Psalms 23:1)** *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."*

**(Psalms 84:11)** *"... No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly."*

**(Matthew 7:9-11)** *"Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? {10} Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? {11} If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"*

◆ **(Psalms 32:1-2)** *"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. {2} Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, ...."*

**(Psalms 32:5)** *"... I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah"*

◆ **(Genesis 50:20)** *"... God meant it for good, ...."*

**(Jeremiah 29:11)** *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

## 2. G \_\_\_\_\_,

In what way?

◆ **(Isaiah 41:10)** *"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*

◆ **(Psalms 102:25-27)** *"Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. {26} They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. {27} But You are the same, And Your years will have no end."*

**(Deuteronomy 10:17)** *"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, ..."*

◆ **(Romans 11:33-36)**

◆ **(Numbers 23:19)** *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

◆ **(Job 42:2)** *"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You."*

**(Psalms 115:3)** *"But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."*

**(Isaiah 14:27)** *"For the LORD of hosts has purposed, And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back?"*

